

# Children's Newspaper

Every Wednesday—Fourpence

FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE

No. 2072, December 6, 1958

## DIALLING FOR A TRUNK CALL

The initials STD (subscriber trunk dialling) describe a new Post Office service to be inaugurated by the Queen during her visit to Bristol on Friday.

This development in the telephone service means that the 18,000 subscribers on the Bristol Central Exchange will be able to dial their own trunk (long distance) calls to some two million other subscribers in many parts of Britain—and eventually to every other subscriber in the land. Instead of asking the operator for the number, they will be able to dial it for themselves in the same way as a local number.

### STARTING POINT

Bristol is only the starting point of this wonderful service. In another two years 40 other places will have subscriber trunk dialling, including Leicester, Warrington, York, Carlisle, Swansea, and Lancaster. London's turn will come between 1960 and 1961.

The task of equipping exchanges throughout the country will continue for many years, but it is hoped that by 1970 three-quarters of all trunk calls in Britain will be obtainable by STD.

The cost of this vast project will be about £35,000,000, but it is estimated that as much as £15,000,000 a year will be saved. Instead of 50,000 telephone operators and supervisors as at present, only 25,000 will be needed.

It all started some years ago,

when Post Office research engineers at the Dollis Hill Research Station, London, devised a robot telephone operator. This robot, which is the "brain" of STD, has to be installed in every telephone exchange where subscribers get their own trunk calls. Its name is Grace—from the initial letters of the device: Group Routing And Charging Equipment.

When a subscriber dials the required trunk number, say to London, Grace gets busy and guides the call, which may have to go through other telephone exchanges on the way. Grace does the necessary switching of the call at these exchanges until London is reached, and then dials the wanted number. When the call is answered, Grace records it on a meter in the caller's exchange.

There is a new method of charging. Under the current system there is a minimum charge of 3s. 6d. for three minutes; it is 3s. 6d. even if the call lasts only half a minute. The new system charges for time actually spent on the call, in multiples of 2d. For example, in a call above 125 miles the cost is 2d. for 12 seconds, 10d. for one minute, 1s. for one minute 12 seconds, and so on.

But although the new method is cheaper, the Post Office expects STD will result in better business because people may make more calls. Meanwhile, Bristol, starting on Friday, is to blaze the trail.

## Fourteen men on a stricken ship

A Christmas story of gallantry and superb seamanship was recalled at Grimsby Town Hall recently when a presentation was made to Bob Drew, skipper of the trawler *Wolverhampton Wanderers*.

Last year, on December 21, the *Wolverhampton Wanderers* was on her way to Arctic fishing grounds when she ran into a terrible storm. The North Sea was at its worst and, 140 miles off Aberdeen, Skipper Drew decided he must heave to and ride out the storm. Then came the urgent message, S.O.S. It was from the small motor ship *Bosworth*, in dire straits about 30 miles away.

### RISKING DISASTER

The trawler got going again and presently sighted the crippled *Bosworth* through the storm. Skipper Drew took his ship as close as possible, risking disaster as the two vessels were hurled to and fro by huge seas.

*Wolverhampton Wanderers* had her starboard bulwarks smashed in, but Skipper Drew kept as near as he dared until *Bosworth* launched her boats. The trawler manoeuvred carefully towards them until at last all 14 of the *Bosworth* men were safely aboard. They were landed at Aberdeen in time for most of them to be home for Christmas.

The recent presentation to Skipper Drew took the form of a canteen of cutlery from the Ministry of Transport and a wrist watch from the *Bosworth's* owners. They were rewards for "Seamanship of a very high order in weather conditions of the utmost severity."

## White Christmas in Florida

Come what may, shopkeepers in the Florida town of Tampa are determined to have a White Christmas. With the thermometer sometimes as high as 88 degrees, large quantities of machine-made snow are being spread over the shopping centre.

The local youngsters, many of whom have never seen snow before, are delighted. Machine-made snow is just as effective for snowballing as the real thing.

## Stirring job

Christmas puddings are being made at a Cambridge jam factory for children's parties at hospitals all over the country. These nurses from Addenbrooke's Hospital are providing six helping hands to stir the mixture.



## New way to get airborne

To demonstrate how small aircraft could be recovered after a forced landing on hostile territory this Whirlwind helicopter recently performed the feat of lifting a Chipmunk trainer. This was carried out at the R.E.M.E. depot at Arborfield, near Reading.

## Self-help is the motto at Lymington

One of the finest community centres in Britain recently celebrated its tenth anniversary. It is the one at Lymington, Hampshire, described as "a model of its kind, where everybody does something, some do an awful lot, and some what little they can." It started in a small room over a fish shop, but is now housed in a disused 18th-century malthouse skillfully converted by a local architect.

Drawn from every walk of life in the town, the 1600 members "make leisure a pleasure." But social activities are not their only concern. They have a film club and a drama group, a pottery class and a gardeners' club, a debating society, a choral group, and a gramophone society; in all there is something for everybody.

They also have a sitters-in scheme to provide an occasional free evening to those tied by the care of small children or old folk. They have adopted a Refugees'

Camp, in Austria, to which they send comfort and cash as well as provide a welfare worker sent out from Lymington.

A feature of the centre is that as far as possible the members do everything themselves. The brilliant chandeliers, for example, were made in the centre's workshop; the lighting was installed single-handed by a member working mostly at week-ends; the wrought-iron gates at the entrance were designed and made in the metal-work class; and the meals provided in the dining-room are available because more than 50 volunteers serve in shifts in the kitchen.

The principle governing this centre at Lymington is that whenever anything is needed the members shall get together and do their very best to provide it themselves.

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# STRANGERS IN THE HOUSE

By the CN Parliamentary Correspondent

THE other day our M.P.s decided to sit in private. All "strangers"—that is, the public and the reporters—were ordered to leave the galleries. Then the House went on with a debate which nobody but Members heard and of which nobody will ever read a full account.

Right in the middle of the debate an M.P. called: "I spy strangers." This he did merely as a protest against the line the Government was taking—a line he did not like—about a matter under discussion.

Many times during the last two wars Parliament held *secret* sittings. This enabled Government and Opposition to speak frankly without the risk that State secrets would reach enemy ears.

But such sittings took place by agreement. M.P.s knew in advance if a debate were to be secret. On the recent occasion few M.P.s knew what was going to happen, but the Member who "spied strangers" was quite within his rights, and had the backing of a long parliamentary tradition.

Up to 1875 any M.P. could at any time have the galleries emptied just by saying "I spy strangers." In that year the then Prince of Wales, afterwards Edward VII, was a victim of this procedure and had to leave the gallery with the rest of the public.

As a result the House has since required that strangers can be told to "withdraw" only if a definite motion to that effect is put to the House and carried by a majority of Members present, as happened recently.

A member of the House of Lords listening to a Commons debate from the Peers' Gallery, or an M.P. casually visiting the Lords chamber, is allowed to stay for a secret or private sitting from which the public is excluded. This has been so since 1918.

## BATTLES FOR PRIVACY

Until this recent surprise there had been no similar occasion for 33 years. The spying of strangers nowadays is a rarity, for most M.P.s and peers appreciate the need for their speeches to be reported. But many battles have been fought in the past over parliamentary privacy.

During the Parliament v. Monarchy struggle which eventually cost Charles I his head, Westminster was very much a "closed shop." M.P.s feared that if they spoke critically of the Throne some informer might report their boldness to the Sovereign, with possibly dire results.

In the 18th century, during the long campaign for the freedom of the Press to report parliamentary debates, everything was done to stop the reporting and printing of proceedings. In the end Parlia-

ment lost, and the "Fourth Estate of the Realm"—as Macaulay called the Press Gallery—has long been established, to the acknowledged benefit of Parliament as well as the public.

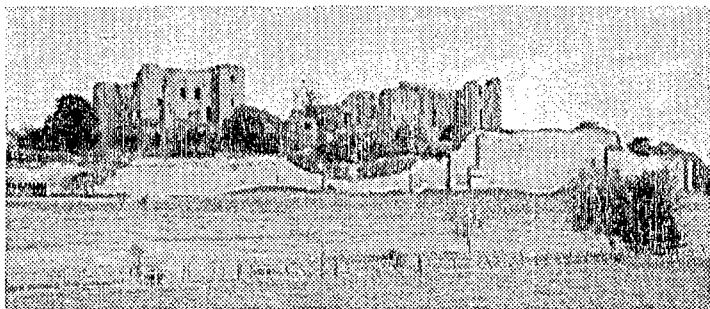
There have been times, before and since, when Parliament's mood about strangers was in turn relaxed or stern, especially with regard to ladies. From a record of 1762 it is clear that ladies were allowed not only in the public galleries but actually occupied seats by the side of M.P.s on the sacred floor of the House itself.

## BARRING THE LADIES

In 1778, we are told, the ladies "laughed and stamped and cheered" when a bluff old naval captain of an M.P. one night "spied strangers." It took the authorities two hours to clear the ladies out of the galleries. After that new rules about strangers were so rigidly enforced that the wife of Richard Brinsley Sheridan, the playwright, could only get into the Commons to hear him speak by dressing up as a man.

The 19th century was very hard on women. Old Westminster was burned down in 1834. In the new Commons chamber a *separate* gallery, screened by a grille, was provided for women. Here they remained, tucked away almost out of sight behind bars in their Ladies' Gallery, for nearly a century.

However, times have changed, and this question was settled by the enemy bomb which destroyed that Commons chamber in 1941. With the old chamber were swept away all 19th-century scruples about "grilles." Today men and women sit together in the public galleries.



OUR HOMELAND

Kenilworth Castle, which was recently presented to the town of Kenilworth

## Rescue workers



Fine work is being done by a river patrol, first of its kind in England, organised on the Thames by the Ottershaw (Surrey) Red Cross Division.

## THOUSANDS OF BRIDGES

How many bridges are there on British Railways? How many tunnels? How many signal boxes? How many level crossings?

If you tried to guess the answers to these questions you would probably be a long way out, the correct answers being 63,100 bridges, 1039 tunnels, 9560 signal boxes, and 24,368 level crossings.

These astonishing items of information, interesting to all railway enthusiasts, appear with a host of others in a booklet called *Facts and Figures about British Railways*. Copies can be obtained free from the British Transport Commission, 222 Marylebone Road, London, N.W.1.

## FAMILY AFFAIR

William Eaton and his wife migrated from England to Australia 100 years ago, and to celebrate that event, their descendants held a get-together picnic at Brisbane the other day. No fewer than 464 members of the family turned up—the oldest 87 and the youngest only three weeks old. All of them must have had a jolly time sorting out their relatives.

## Out and About

WHILE the fields and hedges and trees are bare the handsome magpie can often be seen looking for worms and slugs, or sometimes feeding, like the carrion crow, on the body of a mouse or a bird.

The dead bird is quite likely to be a pigeon, for at this time of the year the native pigeon population may be crowded out by large flocks from northern Scandinavia. Pigeons have been known to choke themselves with acorns; but when overcrowded they often die of a disease like diphtheria, when they cannot swallow.

The magpie knows how to look after himself, although his fine black and white dress makes him conspicuous. When magpies are feeding together in a field and you can watch for a while without alarming them, you may be suddenly surprised by a loud chattering noise. Hearing this, all the magpies in the field fly up and off to their wood nearby. They had a sentry in that elm tree; he noticed you and told the others. C. D. D.

# News from Everywhere

The Patriarch of Moscow has given a precious ikon to Coventry Cathedral. It is a painting of the Madonna and Child, set in gold and clusters of jewels.

The 1000-year-old church of St. Mary Senior, York, is to be moved stone by stone to a new housing centre three miles away.

## UNWANTED FARTHING

Telephone equipment used by Captain Scott's 1911 expedition has been found at Cape Royds, in the Antarctic.

A new chemical plant in Norway is to produce synthetic vanilla from spruce and pine.

The Royal Mint produced 2,072,000 sovereigns last year to be held as part of the Nation's Gold Reserves. Altogether, 507,702,859 coins were minted, which was eight million more than in 1956. No farthings were struck.

Prehistoric ostrich eggs twice the size of those laid by any living ostrich have been found in Kazakhstan, Russia.

Four tiger cubs born recently at the Dublin Zoo were abandoned by their mother and are being reared by two collie dogs.

## THEY SAY . . .

You can't go to vote on a combine harvester.

Col. Douglas Glover, M.P.

I WOULD cheerfully sacrifice compulsory Chaucer and some other subjects like that to get time for a realistic attempt at teaching children the duties of citizenship as well as their rights.

Mr. Thomas Johnston, former Scottish Secretary of State

THE House of Lords is a delicious place to be in. People move so slowly. Nobody runs down passages.

Lady Swanborough

Ask for a

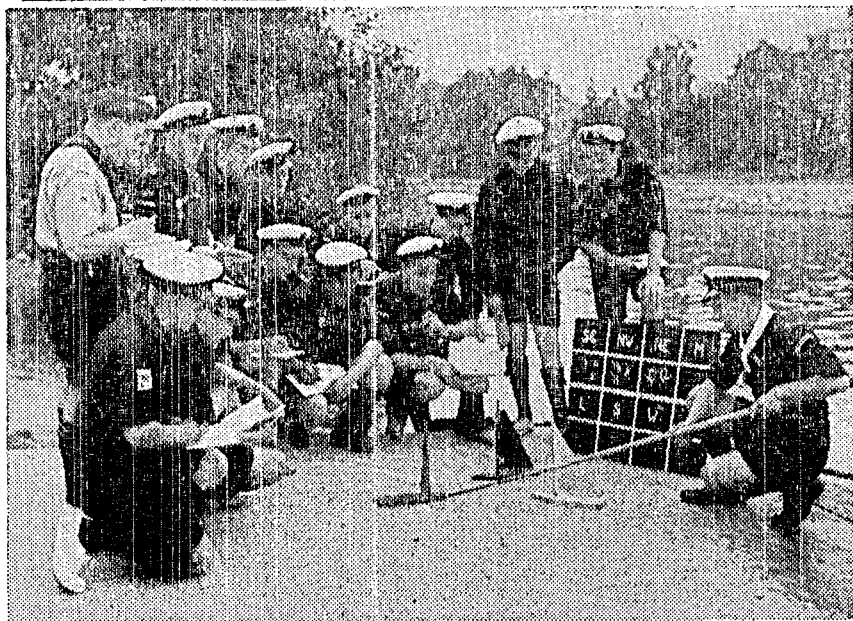
# BICYCLE THIS CHRISTMAS

... NOW ON EVEN "EASIER THAN EVER" EASY TERMS. GO TO YOUR DEALER

—see all the wonderful new models and ask for **FREE** Catalogues.



The Children's Newspaper, December 6, 1958



## On an island called Neptune

Raven's Ait, an island in the Thames at Surbiton, Surrey, has been named Neptune and is used as a training ship for Sea Scouts. Here we see models being used in a sailing instruction class.

## Blue Goose that lost its way

One of the most interesting bird visitors to our shores this autumn was the American blue goose which appeared with a flock of pink-footed geese on the marshes near Southport.

First noticed by three Manchester ornithologists it was not only the first wild blue goose seen in Lancashire, but probably the first ever seen in England, although it has been recorded in southern Ireland, the Solway Firth, and Shetland.

The pink-footed geese, normal occupants of this winter feeding ground in Lancashire, come from Iceland. The blue goose, probably blown off its normal migration course to Louisiana, crossed

Greenland, and joined a small migration of Greenland white-fronted geese as far as Iceland, and there became further involved in the usual movement of pink-foot to Britain for the winter.

The blue goose is a variety of the North American snow-goose, and looks rather like a blue-grey farmyard goose with a white head and neck. Not until 1929 were the nesting haunts of the blue goose found on the tundra of western Baffin Island in the now frozen north of Canada. On leaving Baffin Island in the autumn the blue goose crosses the Hudson Strait and continues southward until it reaches the Mississippi valley, to spend the winter.

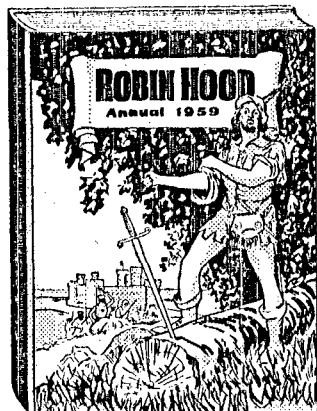
## Children help children

A fine example of children helping children has been provided by pupils of Brampton County Primary School, Bexleyheath, Kent.

With the sale of harvest gifts to the school they raised £30 and sent it to the Adoption Committee for Aid to Displaced Persons, to provide milk and fruit for children at a camp in Bavaria.

As they cannot write English the children at the camp will say "thank you" with drawings.

## AMONG THE MERRIE MEN



This is the cover of the Robin Hood Annual (Amalgamated Press, 7s. 6d.), one of the liveliest books of the year. Full of colour, it invites every boy who loves adventure to sally forth to Sherwood Forest and share in the exploits of the famous outlaw and his merrie men.

## Old mutton

A tin of mutton 109 years old has been given to the British Food Manufacturing Industries Research Association.

It was among the provisions carried by the schooner Felix, which sailed in 1850 to search for survivors or traces of Sir John Franklin's lost North-West Passage expedition. When the Felix returned to port the tin was taken home by one of the crew and has been in private possession ever since.

Research scientists are now seeking records of William and Thomas Cooper, the cannery, in order to learn their methods.

## NON-STOP DAY

It was a busy Saturday for 16-year-old Paul Simpson of Nottingham High School. After morning school as usual and a hurried lunch at home he rushed to the sports ground to play in a rugby match against Stamford School.

Immediately afterwards he changed and caught a train to Sheffield, where he was just in time to take part in the National Accordion Association's area championship. Despite an injured finger, he was able to play Liszt's Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2 well enough to beat the other 100 competitors and to win the title for the third year in succession.

## Quick work on the line

A wonderful engineering job was carried out recently at London Road Station, Manchester, as part of the new electrification scheme between Manchester and Crewe. Work scheduled to take eight days was completed in 52 hours. The station was closed and 322 trains diverted while 2000 men carried out the project.

The men took up large sections of the main line between the Manchester Station and Slade Lane junction, and installed new points and signalling.

## Armful of trophies



In the past year, 12-year-old Alexandria Jelee, of Eastcote, Middlesex, has won five major trophies and 16 gold medals for her dancing.

## The CN National Stamp Competition to discover the

## JUNIOR STAMP CHAMPION

OVER 50 PRIZES TO BE WON

NO ENTRY FEE

STAMP-COLLECTORS forward! Here is a chance to show what you really know about stamps, and perhaps to learn more in the process... for fifty of you to win good prizes... for one of you to become the C N's Junior Stamp Champion of 1959!

No matter whether you have a large collection or not—after all, many a collection is small but good—this is a contest you will all enjoy. Boys or girls who are not yet 17 may compete. There is NO entry fee, and all you have to do now is answer the STAMP QUIZ below.

The senders of the fifty best entries will all receive Prizes of Large Albums, Stamp-collectors' Outfits, or £1 Set of Stamps... they can make their own choice. They will also be asked to join in the next round of the competition and send up their stamp collections (at our expense). A committee of experts will then decide which one of them is to be proclaimed C N Junior Stamp Champion at the great Stamp Exhibition in March next. The champion will be invited to London for the occasion, together with a parent or other relative, and will also receive a Personal Presentation worth £5. All expenses will be paid by the organisers of the Stamp Exhibition.

### To Send in Your Quiz Entry:

1. Write your answers to the 12 questions in a neat, numbered list on a single sheet of paper. Write IN INK. (You may use books for guidance, but you must find the answers for yourself. If you cannot answer all the questions send in just the same; perhaps no entrant will answer all of them correctly!)
2. Fill in the coupon below, also in ink, ask your parent, guardian, or teacher to sign it, then affix it to your Quiz paper.
3. Post in a 3d. stamped envelope to:

C N Stamp Competition,  
3 Pilgrim Street,  
London, E.C.4 (Comp.).

to reach us by Friday, December 19, 1958, the Closing Date for Quiz entries. No collections or stamps are to be sent to us at present!

**Rules** Only one set of answers to the Quiz may be sent in by each entrant, the C N entry coupon being completed and affixed to it. (The coupon will be given again in next week's C N for use by sister, brother, or friend.)

The 50 Prizes, each value £1, will be awarded to the fifty entrants sending the best and most accurate answers to the Quiz. The final winner of the competition—and of the title of C N Stamp Champion of 1959—will be the boy or girl among those fifty who gives the best answers to a supplementary questionnaire and whose stamp collection (to be sent later on invitation) is adjudged the best. This choice will be made by the Adjudication Committee who will also take the sender's personal achievement in his or her collection into account.

No Quiz entries received after Friday, December 19, will be considered, nor collections arriving after the date (to be given later) for their submission. CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER will defray the cost of postage on the fifty collections invited; all such collections will be returned, but no responsibility will be taken for delay, loss, or damage in transit or otherwise. No correspondence!

The decision of the Judges, and of the Editor in all other matters affecting the competition, will be final.

This competition is open to all boys and girls aged under 17 (at time of entry) and living in Great Britain, Ireland, and the Channel Islands—except employees (or their families) of the proprietors of CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER and associated companies, or of any person connected with the stamp trade.

The Result will be announced in CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER

### How Much Do You Know About Stamps?

Answer as many of these questions as you can, and send in as explained at the side.

- 1 Britain was the first country in the world to issue stamps—which country was second and in what year?
- 2 Queen Victoria was the first monarch to appear on our stamps. Can you name all the British monarchs who have since appeared on them?
- 3 A country issued a stamp showing the first Sputnik dog—identify the stamp and the dog.
- 4 Which stamp bears a picture of Eton College?
- 5 Which stamp was overprinted with a football score? Identify the stamp and say what it commemorates.
- 6 Can you name the two crosses on this Malta 2d. stamp (here slightly reduced in size)?
- 7 Which State or States issue stamps bearing this design?
- 8 The current British 2s. 6d. stamp shows N. Ireland's Carrickfergus Castle, the 5s. Wales's Caernarvon Castle, the 10s. Edinburgh Castle. Which stamp shows Buckingham Palace?
- 9 Name the countries which have issued ice hockey stamps.
- 10 On which stamp is there a scene from Shakespeare's "Midsummer Night's Dream"?
- 11 Would you expect the "Mauritius Post Offices" to be a good business proposition? Please say (briefly) why or why not.
- 12 What do you consider are the three chief points to remember in forming a stamp collection? Give them in order of importance.



C N National Stamp Competition

### FREE ENTRY COUPON

Your Full Names..... Age.....

Your Address.....

Certified that this entry is the unaided work of the above-named. (Signed)..... Parent/Guardian/Teacher.

Closing Date for Quiz Entries, December 19



## ERNEST THOMSON WRITES ABOUT RADIO AND TELEVISION PERSONALITIES AND PROGRAMMES

## MODELLING FOR HISTORY

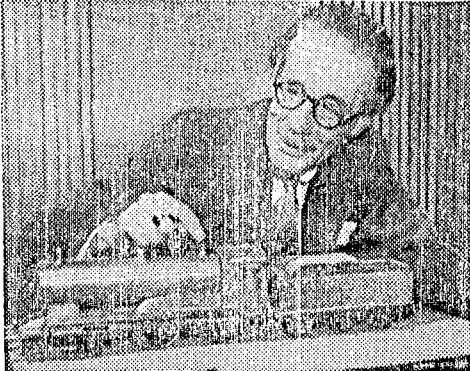
"You can't collect full-size locomotives like postage stamps," said Mr. J. N. Maskelyne when I spoke to him about his Collectors' talk in Network Three at 7 p.m. next Monday. "That's why modellers are making a great contribution to railway history. Through their efforts we can preserve the shapes of celebrated locomotives of the past."

Mr. Maskelyne, a retired engineer, will be speaking about his collection. It includes the model locomotive seen in the picture, designed by himself as the ideal type for the home model maker. "It looks real, and it actually works," he said. "Many models that look good don't work."

He told me his most prized

model was made in 1884—a Ramsbottom 7 foot 6 inches single which is an exact replica of express engines on the old London and North Western Railway.

Mr. Maskelyne is a grandson of the famous master magician who



gave his shows in St. George's Hall, adjoining Queen's Hall opposite Broadcasting House. Both halls were destroyed in air raids.

## The story of Harlequin

THE background story of Harlequin and Columbine has never, I believe, been told either on radio or TV. If we watch the Harlequinade fortnightly series in Associated-Rediffusion's Let's Get Together, starting on Friday, we can learn how the traditional story had its origins in the little Italian town of Bergamo.

Redvers Kyle has written the

story, and will tell it while the dancers mime it to music. We can meet all the familiar characters—Harlequin, Columbine, Pantaloon, and the lovers Beatrice and Sylvio. The final instalment, on Boxing Day, will be telerecorded so that the Harlequinaders can enjoy Christmas at home and perhaps watch themselves on the TV screen.

## Welsh fairy tale Charlie Drake can sing as well as clown

CHILDREN today will scarcely believe that any boy could be so unlucky as Dewi Morgan. That is what worries author Ronald Hadlington about his two-part serial, Dewi Morgan's Luck, which will be heard in BBC Children's Hour this Thursday and December 11.

He wants listeners to know that much of it, though a fairy tale, is based on what he remembers as truth from his Welsh boyhood of less than 50 years ago. Dewi of the story meets a fairy chief who befriends him. Up till then he is starving and poorly clothed.

## The sledge-builders

How would you build a sledge if you hadn't any money and there was no wood? This is the problem facing two small boys who are the heroes of a delightful little film from Hungary to be shown in BBC Children's TV on Friday.

The Sledge tells how they thought of an extraordinary scheme which led to even more extraordinary results.

The sound track was Hungarian but Vera Lorrimer has written an English translation which is spoken by Frank Siemens.

## In Pebblings Village

PEOPLE who like the Pebblings Village stories by Modwena Sedgwick in BBC Children's Hour will not see anything strange about Knights of the Square Table. For no one would expect to find a round table in Pebblings. "David" will be telling another Pebblings Village tale in two parts, beginning this Thursday.

The Dog Wilson comes into it again, this time as owner of an expensive vase. Pebblings villagers don't think that absurd, considering that he can talk.

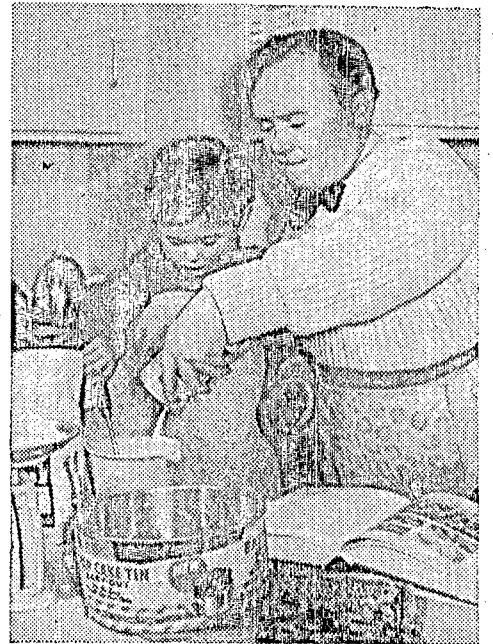
ONCE viewers knew him simply as Montmorency, in the Mick and Montmorency act with Jack

Edwardes in Children's TV. But in the past twelve months little Charlie Drake has become one of the best-known comedians on TV, crowning his success with an appearance in the Royal Variety performance at the London Coliseum last month. Viewers of all ages enjoy his pranks in his current BBC Television series on Tuesdays. On Saturday he breaks into Six-Five Special, this time to remind everyone that he can sing as well as clown.

Charlie Drake left school in the Old Kent Road, London, in 1939, when he was only 14, and went straight into variety at the South London Palace. Though such a little man, he was not too short to

serve in the R.A.F. for four years in India and Egypt.

In his spare time he writes short stories. And as we see below, he also enjoys cake-making.



Young Christopher Drake lends a hand as his father sets about making a cake

## HE WAS THE FIRST HUNTER WITH A CAMERA

NOWADAYS the TV screens are alive with animal photos and films. But the pioneer of all the modern wild life photographers was the late Cherry Kearton. In the Nature programme Look, this Wednesday, Peter Scott will be paying tribute to this daring traveller who never shot an animal except by camera.

When he died in 1940 Kearton had taken still and cine cameras

into almost every country in the world. He walked right across the African continent. Viewers will see pictures taken by Kearton between 1903 and 1938. Peter Scott will talk to Mrs. Ada Kearton, who accompanied her husband on many of his film-hunting expeditions.

I hear that the films will be repeated on BBC Children's TV early next year.

## CRICKET CHRISTMAS FOR BRIAN JOHNSTON

It will be a "cricket" Christmas for BBC commentator Brian Johnston this year. On Christmas Day and Boxing Day, Brian will be with his family at their St. John's Wood home near Lord's Cricket Ground, London. But you may be sure there will be plenty of discussion about cricket, for on December 27 Brian flies to Australia for the Test Matches. Within 96 hours of leaving home he will be at the Melbourne microphone.

This means leaving behind his wife Pauline and their four children—Barry (9), Clare (8), Andrew (4), and Ian (18 months).

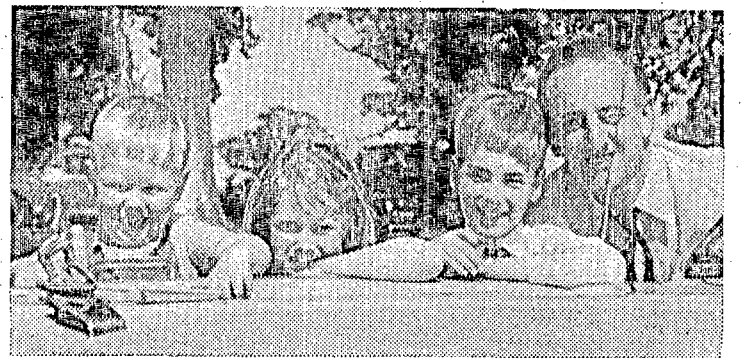
I asked him whether some of the family would be listening to his early morning broadcasts, going out on Network Three at 6.45.

"They certainly will," he said. "Andrew, though he's only four, is perhaps the keenest cricketer of the lot—very handy with the bat. You should see his Compton sweep. And he likes driving them to long leg."

Brian Johnston is an old hand at Australian Test commentaries in this country but meeting the Australians on their own ground will be a new experience. Said Brian: "I am thrilled at being able to visit the ground at Sydney, and the Melbourne ground which has not been used for Tests since before the Olympic Games. I have often spoken to Australians about them, but now I will see them for myself."

His two months' absence enables him to give commentaries on all Tests except the first, which starts at Brisbane this Friday. Besides the Network Three broadcasts he will be doing filmed interviews for BBC Television and commentaries for Australian TV.

If you miss the 6.45 a.m. broadcasts, you can still keep up to date with Jack Fingleton's five-minute summary at 8.10 a.m. in the Home Service.



Brian Johnston with three of his children—Andrew, Clare, and Barry

## Years of endless entertainment!

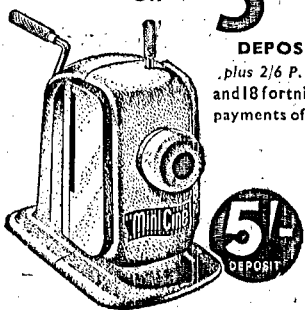
## MINICINE MOVIE

The ever popular and famous combined MOVIE and STILL projector that operates from the mains. There are 200 exciting colour films to choose from. It comes to you complete with 6 films and transformer.

CASH PRICE £4.4.0 plus 2/6 P. & P.

OR

5/- DEPOSIT plus 2/6 P. & P. and 18 fortnightly payments of 4/10.



Write now while stocks last to:

## HOPE LABORATORIES LTD.

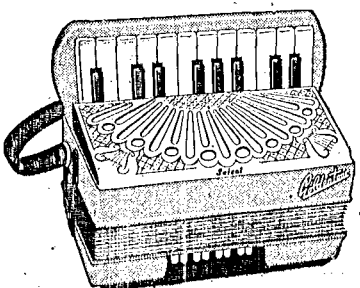
(Dept. C.N.7), 1<sup>B</sup> Ramsden Road, London, S.W.12.

## GOLDENTONE ACCORDION

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# WHO'S WHO AT THE ZOO

## The geese ran away with the plug

"DIFFICULT" birds at London Zoo just now are Joe and Emma, the Emperor geese which live on a grassy plot just opposite the administrative offices. These large Alaskan birds seem to take a fiendish delight in annoying their guardian, Headkeeper Jack Ward.

"The main trouble is connected with their bathing pool," Mr. Ward told me. "For as soon as we fill it, one or other of the birds goes to the metal plug and tugs at it until it comes out."

"One day they even went so far as to hide the plug among the bushes. Normally we keep it attached to a wire, but on this occasion it came off. We still haven't found it."

"These birds have been very 'difficult' since last spring, when they had eggs for the first time," Mr. Ward added. "Unfortunately, the eggs were stolen. The way they nowadays keep pulling up the plug in their pond makes one think they believe that the eggs were lost down the drainpipe!"

## Budgerigar families are parting

In another part of the gardens, bird keepers have now segregated all the female homing budgerigars for the winter. All nest-boxes have been removed from the aviary and the females, having finished temporarily with their family affairs, are being "kept in." This precaution was found to be necessary for two reasons.

"Firstly, we do not want any nesting until next spring—the budgerigars always do better if they are given this rest period," I was told by Mr. John Yealland, curator of birds. "Secondly, we have found that if the females are allowed to fly around the grounds like the males, they have a tendency to stray. The 50 nest-boxes are now being overhauled and cleaned, and will be put up again in the spring."

"During the winter, the only homing budgerigars flying around the gardens will be males. There are about 40 of them. They are of all colours and are likely to become very tame and confiding

during the winter, but we hope visitors will not interfere with them, or try to catch them."

"We bred many of these birds during the past season. Not all the young remain here, however. We have given a number of them to various hospitals and old peoples' homes, where they give tremendous pleasure."

## Kiwi is a comic

London Zoo's new kiwi, Busby, is rapidly making a name for himself as a "comedian." Each afternoon at 2.30 Headkeeper E. Scrivener takes the bird from its sleeping "kennel" and, in front of a small crowd of visitors, gives him a meal of worms and shredded horse meat. Once the meal is over, Busby has no time whatever for his visitors, but makes frantic efforts to get back into his kennel. However, the sliding door is kept

## Gibraltar apes for Paignton

From Paignton Zoo, Devon, comes news of the arrival there of three rock apes, a gift from the Governor of Gibraltar. "Their names are Robert, Keith, and Jill," Mr. Kenneth Smith, the Zoo superintendent, told me. "Keith is four years old, and Robert and Jill are three. Their father is Gunner, pack leader and the oldest ape on the Rock."

"Apes have been known on the Rock for many centuries," Mr. Smith added. "There is no authentic record as to how they came to be there, but it is thought that they were living on the Rock at the time when Europe and Africa were joined across the present Straits of Gibraltar. On the whole, these apes are very friendly creatures, and will readily

## Jill's baby

Jill is a Brazilian tapir at Whipsnade Zoo and has recently presented the institution with this handsome baby. The coats of new-born tapirs have stripes or spots but these markings are lost as the young ones grow older.



closed for 20 minutes so as to keep the kiwi on view.

But does that deter him? Not a bit. Busby promptly keeps jumping on to the roof of the kennel to see if he can find an entrance there. But the roof also is kept shut, and as a rule the kiwi slides comically off, to tumble upside down upon the sawdust. He then walks all round his kennel, prodding enquiringly at every corner with his beak. Finally, when his bedroom door is opened for him, Busby makes a dash for the interior and is soon sound asleep.

search a visitor's pockets for food. They are easily upset by sudden movement or unusual noises, but they respond promptly to gentle treatment. For the time being, the three apes will be exhibited in a large cage in Pets' Corner, for which, by the way, there is no admission charge during the winter months."

I recently mentioned that blue lamps have been installed at the London Zoo's tropical bird house to combat fog. Their purpose, in fact, is to aid the keepers after dark.

Craven Hill

## UNUSUAL PASSENGER

People stopped and stared at a car being driven through the streets of Long Eaton, Derbyshire. Sitting next to the driver was a skeleton! It was Percy, lent by local firemen to the ambulance service for lectures.

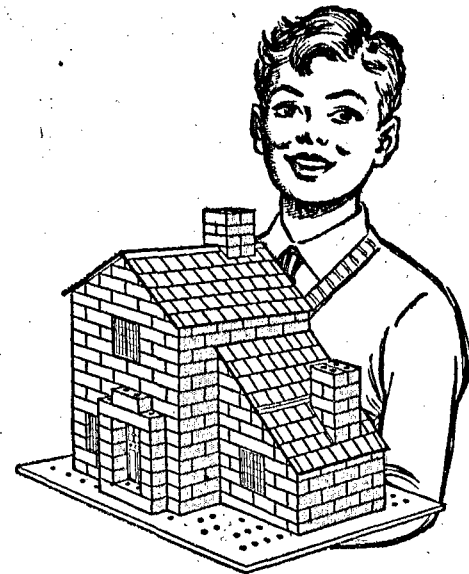
Officials had tried to fold up Percy so that he could ride more or less unseen at the back of the car. But this proved impossible; so into the front he had to go, and no bones about it!

## Roast swan and spinach

Pike stewed in white wine, and roast swan with spinach—these were among the items at a banquet held at Chislehurst, Kent, to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the accession of Queen Elizabeth I.

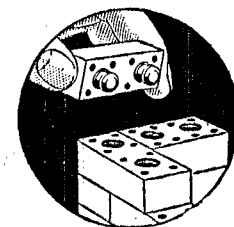
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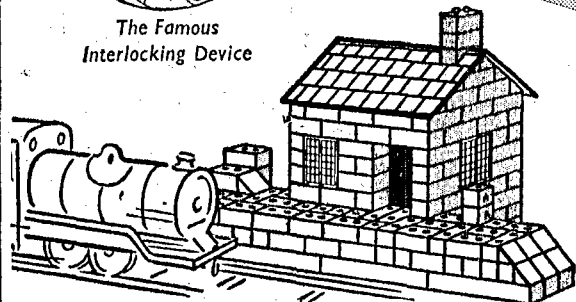
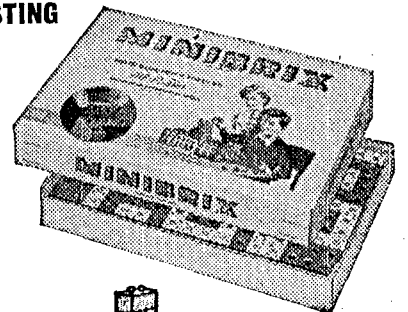


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A NAME TO REMEMBER



# HERE ARE THE MEN WHO

COLD and wintry though the weather may be on Friday morning, cricket enthusiasts all over Britain will be leaving their warm beds to listen-in to the latest news from Brisbane. Unless there is some unlikely rain, the first Test Match between England and Australia will be on, and the final overs of the day's play will be broadcast from 6.45 a.m.

It is four years since the last M.C.C. party went to Australia, but few followers of the game are likely to forget the excitement of that series of Test Matches. After being decisively beaten in the first match, England retained the Ashes by three matches to one, much of the credit for that recovery being due to the fast bowling of Frank Tyson and Brian Statham.

In 1956, the Australians were here in quest of the Ashes, and this time it was largely owing to the spin bowling of Jim Laker that they returned empty-handed. Nevertheless, when the present tour was planned, it was thought that speed would again carry the day.

Tyson and Statham were chosen once more, as well as Freddie Trueman, Peter Loader, and all-rounder Trevor Bailey. They make a battery of fast bowlers without equal today, anywhere in the world.

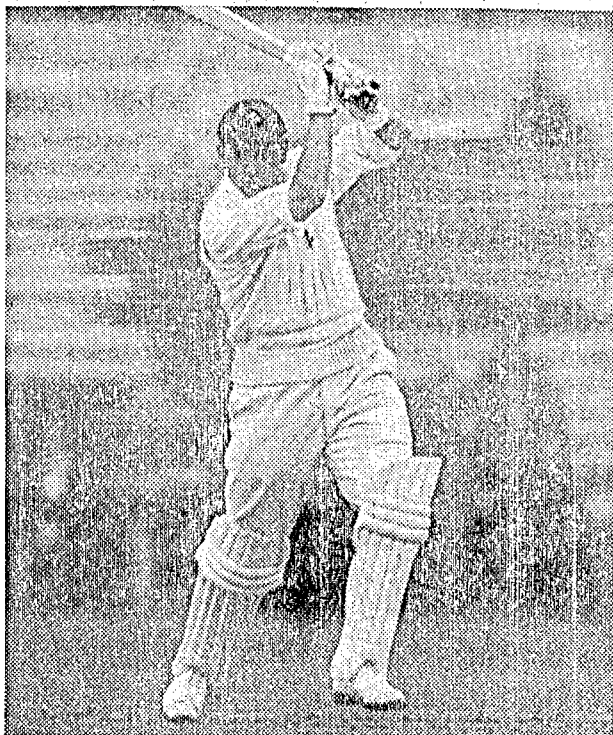
The touring party is certainly a formidable one, apart from its strength in pace bowlers. In Peter

May it has a resolute captain and perhaps the finest batsman in the world. It has two of the game's finest spinners, Laker and Lock; it has stylish run-getters in Graveney, Cowdrey, Milton, and Richardson; and it has Godfrey Evans, still unsurpassed as a wicket-keeper.

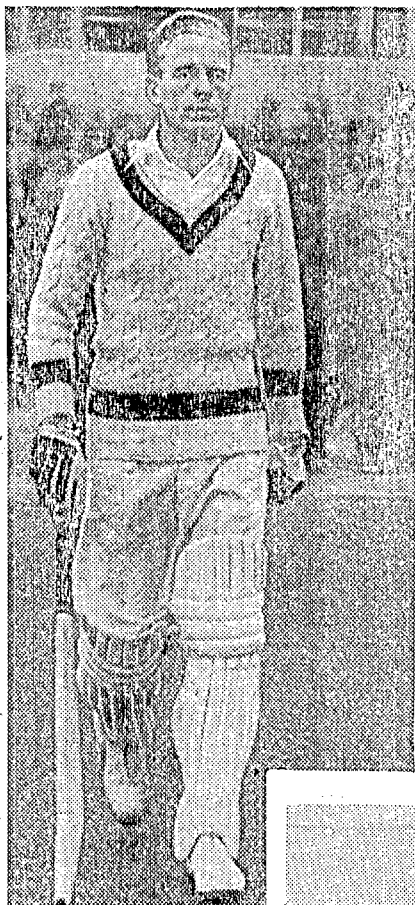
When Johnny Wardle's invitation was withdrawn, the tourists were left with only two spinners. This has proved an undoubted handicap, and the side has since been faced with other difficulties. Firstly, Willie Watson injured his knee; thus depriving Peter May of one of his possible opening batsmen. Secondly—and



Peter May of Surrey (Captain)



Colin Cowdrey of Kent (Vice-captain)



Willie Watson, Leicester



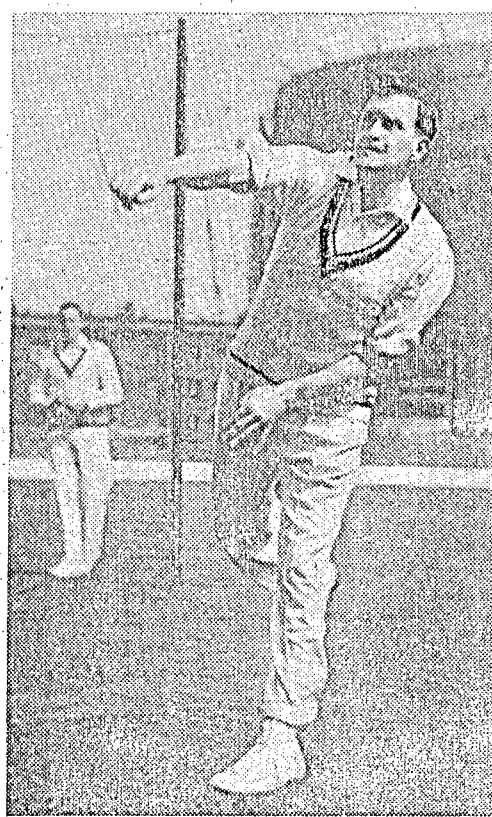
Trevor Bailey of Essex



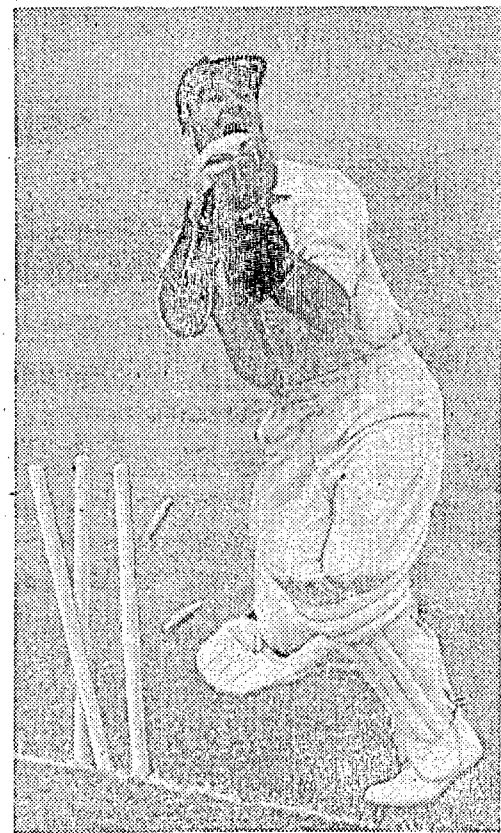
Brian Statham of Lancashire



Surrey's Tony Lock brilliant fielder as well as spin bowler



Jim Laker Surrey's formidable spinner



The two wicket-keepers—Godfrey Evans of K



er, December 6, 1958

7

# WILL DEFEND THE ASHES

more upsetting to England's plans—the pitches have completely changed in character.

The wickets of four years ago, the wickets which proved so responsive to the speed of Tyson and Statham, would now appear to be lifeless.

Now, once it became clear that the fast bowlers were not likely to be as effective as had been hoped, Peter May was faced with another problem. If he was to win the matches against the State sides both spinners would have to be used. But Jim Laker was susceptible to a sore spinning finger, and Tony Lock could not be overworked because of the danger

of aggravating his old knee injury.

This problem was partly solved by sending for John Mortimore. This young Gloucestershire off-spinner should do well in Australia, and he will enable Lock or Laker to be rested in State matches.

This is a necessary precaution, for it is possible that both Lock and Laker will have to play in all the Tests. Laker virtually demoralised the Australian batsmen in England two summers ago, and he showed in the earlier matches of this tour that he might do so again. On the fifth day of a Test, in particular, when the wicket is worn, he could com-

pletely change the state of a game.

When the M.C.C. party left these shores they went as holders of the Ashes, undefeated in a series for seven years, and regarded as the world's champions. Even the most ardent Australian "fan" felt his team would be fighting a losing battle.

Now the situation has changed. For instance, Neil Harvey seems to have recaptured the form which made him the world's best left-hand batsman; 21-year-old Norman O'Neill has shown himself to be the strongest batsman Australia has had for several years; and Richie Benaud has developed into a leg-spinner of the highest order.

All in all, however, the chances still seem slightly in favour of England retaining the Ashes.

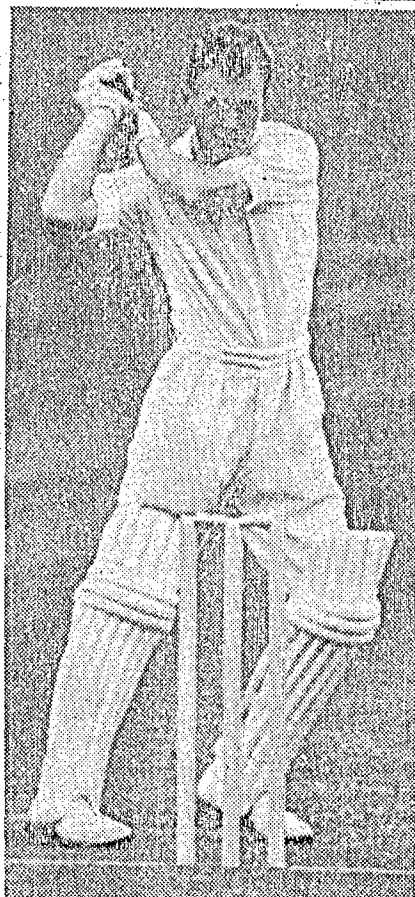
R. B.



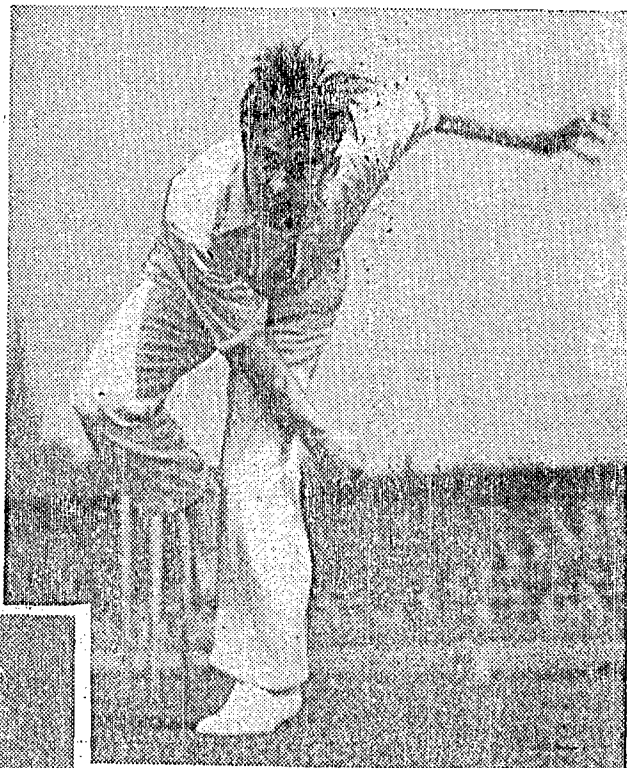
Arthur Milton of Gloucestershire



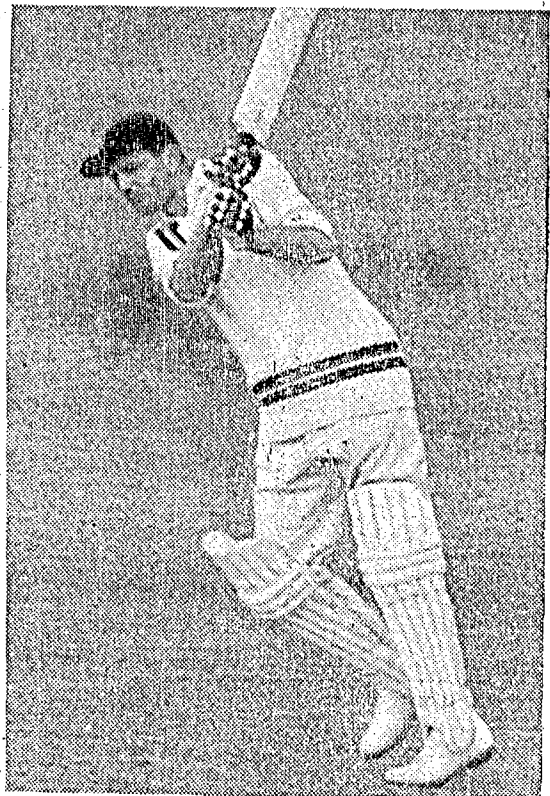
Peter Loader of Surrey



Peter Richardson of Worcestershire



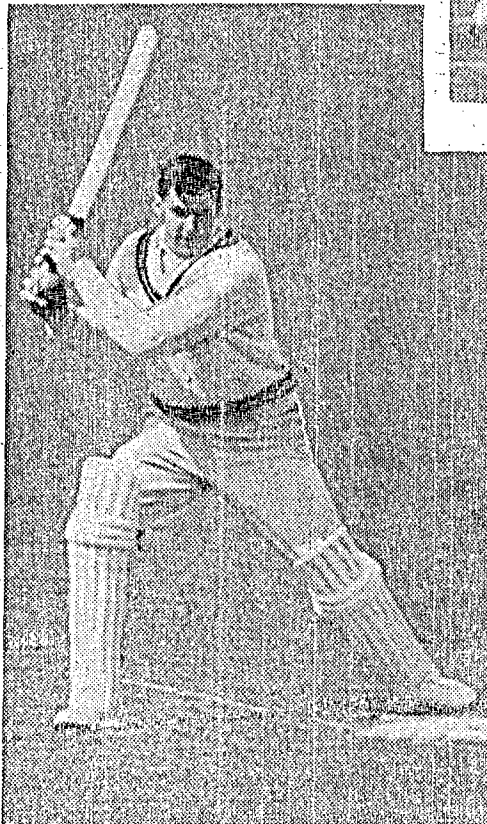
Freddie Trueman of Yorkshire



Tom Graveney of Gloucestershire



nt (left) and young Roy Swetman of Surrey



Raman Subba Row of Northamptonshire.



Frank Tyson of Northants, and (inset) John Mortimore, the Gloucestershire off-spinner



# FLOWERS THAT BLOOM IN THE WINTER

It is a mistake to suppose that there are no wild flowers to be found in bloom in the winter months. It is true that you have to look harder for them than you do in spring and summer, but they are there all the same.

Every year the Wild Flower Society runs a competition for the biggest number of wild flowers found in bloom during the four months from November to February. Last year the first prize was won by 13-year-old John Hodgson of Reading, who found no fewer than 528.

Each month counts separately, so that groundsel, for instance, can be scored four times. Even so, John found 225 flowers still in bloom in November, 150 in December, 93 in January, and 59 in February.

The wild flowers that bloom in the winter can be divided into four classes. First are those that bloom more or less all the year

round. Then there are the left-overs from summer, which may linger on till the first weeks of the New Year if the weather before Christmas is fairly mild. Thirdly, there are a few flowers that do not start to bloom till the autumn, so that their normal flowering period lasts into the winter. Finally comes the early spring brigade, which often starts in the later part of the winter if there is no snow or frost.

## ALL-THE-YEAR-ROUNDERS

There are not very many all-the-year-rounders, and all of them are common garden weeds. They comprise the groundsel, red dead-nettle, common field speedwell, shepherd's purse, common chick-weed, and annual meadow-grass. All of them flower fairly steadily through the winter till there is a long spell of hard frost, when even the prolific little annual meadow-grass may be brought to a halt. Meadow-grass however, will

usually bloom again after the frost.

There are several other plants, including Oxford ragwort, white dead-nettle, small nettle, sun and petty spurges, and annual mercury, that will flower on through the winter till the first hard frost brings them to a complete halt. These need a really mild winter to see them through to the spring.

The wild flowers that linger on from summer are too numerous to be mentioned individually. I have no doubt that most of John Hodgson's high totals for November and December fell into this class.

Two plants regularly to be seen flowering at the roadside right up to Christmas and often beyond are hogweed and yarrow. Sow-thistles also often last into the New Year, and so, in the mild south-west of England, do many plants that have died off much sooner in the harsher north and east.

## ONLY TWO

In Britain we have few flowers that actually start to bloom between Michaelmas and Christmas. In fact ivy, and in some mild places the primrose, are the only native ones I can think of. There is, however, one now quite common alien that starts to bloom in November; this is the winter heliotrope, a sweet-scented relative of our common butterbur, which spreads its rounded coltsfoot-like leaves over many of our roadside banks.

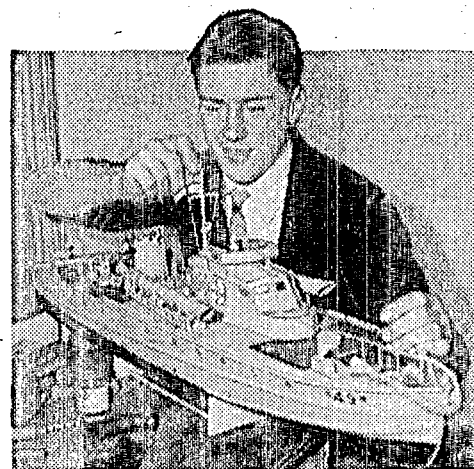
Finally, there are the early spring flowers, starting sometimes, with the primrose well before Christmas, and carrying on with the hazel catkins in January, and many others in February. Two that may start at the end of a mild January are the coltsfoot and dog's mercury.

The Wild Flower Society, by the way, has several branches for juniors. Its secretary lives at Broadview, Claremont Lane, Esher, Surrey.

RICHARD FITTER

## Master Model-Maker

This splendid model of one of the Navy's Motor Torpedo Boats was made by John Denny, a 16-year-old Bayswater boy. Just over a yard long, the model weighs 6lb. and is to be shown at the Schoolboys' Own Exhibition just after Christmas.



## Four Million Telegraph Poles

The first telegraph poles were erected in this country in 1836 by a private company. Today, 122 years later, there are four million poles in use. They carry much of the two million miles of wires, though a considerable proportion of these are now laid underground.

Last year the G.P.O. bought 12,400 poles from home woodlands, and obtained 204,000 from the Scandinavian countries. During the last war, when it was not possible to get Scandinavian poles, the Post Office obtained 350,000 poles from our own resources.

Scots Pine (*Pinus Sylvestris*—or European Redwood, as it is more commonly known) has always been the standard timber used for G.P.O. poles. It grows in enormous quantities in Scandinavia.

The Post Office receives the bare tree trunks and then makes and creosotes the poles to ensure complete uniformity with regard to length of life and safety. The poles have to be perfectly sound, free from large or dead knots, and sawn off as close as possible to the ground. The shortest pole is 16 feet and the longest 60 feet.

Each pole is closely examined for defects, for if a pole collapsed it would not only be dangerous to life, but might throw hundreds of

telephones out of action. The telegraph poles are seasoned by being stacked out in the open for between six months and two years. For creosoting the poles are put into huge ovens, where the air pressure is raised to about 50lb. per square inch. Creosote oil is next heated to over 150 degrees Fahrenheit and pumped in at about 180lb. per square inch. The creosote penetrates deeply into the wood, and when the poles have been removed, borings are made to ascertain the depth of penetration.

Woodpeckers are one of the worst enemies of the telegraph pole. During the nesting season, they drill holes which may be eight inches deep and three inches in diameter.

## PEACE PRIZE

The Nobel Peace Prize for 1958 has been awarded to 48-year-old Father Georges Pire, a Belgian monk who has done wonderful work for refugees. Known to his brother monks as the Saviour of Rusted Souls, he has founded several villages for displaced persons in Belgium, West Germany, and Austria. Father Pire is to devote the prize money, about £14,800, to building two more villages.



## At Work on Their Own Film

Mr. Edward Lee, Headmaster of Whitefriars Secondary School at Wealdstone, Middlesex, is making a colour film of the building of new premises. A number of pupils help in the job of editing.

## HEREWARD THE WAKE—picture-version of Charles Kingsley's tale of Saxon England (9)



The rebellion spread north, the English driving the Danes out of York. Later, however, William the Conqueror recaptured the city, and subdued the northern rebels. Hereward, when he returned with Torfrida to Bourne, also heard bad news of his Danish allies. They had been prevented by the Normans from landing in the Humber, and so had not yet secured the plunder they had been promised for helping the English.

The Danes eventually landed in the Ouse near Ely, where Hereward found them in a surly mood. Their leader, Asbiorn, said his men must have booty if they were to take part in the struggle, and he proposed sacking Crowland Abbey. Hereward now from Danes who coveted her jewellery, and later sent her under escort to a place of safety. He was quite unaware that this beautiful young woman, who had powerful Norman friends, had fallen in love with him.

Among the ladies who fled into the Minster from the Danes, Hereward found one who told him she was Alfrida, the girl he had rescued from the white bear several years before. He protected her from Danes who coveted her jewellery, and later sent her under escort to a place of safety. He was quite unaware that this beautiful young woman, who had powerful Norman friends, had fallen in love with him.

After this the Danish leaders held a meeting at Ely and, despite Hereward's eloquence, they decided that it was useless to continue the struggle against the Normans because, they said, the English were not united. They invited Hereward to return to Denmark with them, and offered him rich lands there, but he declined. Sadly he and Torfrida watched the Danes sail away down the Ouse from Ely.

What lies before Hereward and Torfrida now that their Danish allies have left them? See next week's instalment.



A new series about men who take their lives in their hands

# LIVING DANGEROUSLY

By Garry Hogg

## I. THE TEST PILOT

### Chapter 2

The famous test pilot, Mike Lithgow, had to test an experimental twin-jet plane designed and built by Supermarine. In the early stages of the test he was shocked to find the aircraft, as it were, taking charge instead of responding to the controls he was operating. However strongly he handled the various controls, they seemed to resist him. It was as though they had a life and volition of their own.

Suddenly, and without the slightest warning, the plane developed a "judder" that increased with every second. It had almost the force of the judder that is felt when a ship's engines are put hard astern; and it had the same frightening quality that is experienced when a car or motor-cycle gets "wheel-wobble."

### Without warning

But Mike Lithgow was not on the firm deck of a ship, or even in the front seat of a substantially built car; he was in the cockpit of a flimsy air-frame covered with a light skin that was not designed to stand up to this sort of vibration. Suddenly, and again without warning, the nose tilted and the plane shot upwards in an almost vertical climb from a few thousand feet to a height of more than two miles, and all in a matter of seconds.

The climb was so fierce that the pilot was unable to adjust himself to it; the pressure to which his body was subjected was many times the force of gravity. The result was that he blacked-out.

At the height of nearly three miles the plane unexpectedly levelled out, and Mike Lithgow recovered consciousness. He recovered sufficiently to switch off his engines, and then set himself to glide the aircraft back to earth. Miraculously, the frame and skin had withstood the appalling stress that the judder had imposed on it. It withstood the long glide back to ground-level, and Mike Lithgow stepped out on to the runway with his plane intact.

### Seeking the cause

He was safe, and the plane was safe; but the explanation of the judder that might so well have destroyed the plane and led to the death of the pilot had yet to be found. Mike Lithgow did what every test pilot in such circumstances would insist on. After a preliminary examination, he insisted on taking the plane up a second time, trying to establish exactly the same set of conditions in which the judder had started the first time. By doing this, he believed, he might be able to find out what had caused this inexplicable behaviour; if he did not do this, the explanation might

never be found. In making this decision, of course, he well knew that, subjected to the same stresses a second time, the plane might well disintegrate and bring about his death.

In the end, Mike Lithgow took up that plane not merely a second time but a third and a fourth and fifth. While he manoeuvred in it, designers and other experts studied its behaviour in the air through powerful field-glasses.

### Flutter of danger

At last, after a long series of experimental flights, the mystery of the intense vibration was solved: it proved to be the result of faulty alignment in some of the controls. This set up a small local "flutter" which quickly magnified itself, until the flutter became a judder powerful enough, if sustained, to wreck the whole aircraft. But for the test pilot's insistence on solving the problem in his own particular way, it might never have been solved at all. And this would have meant either redesigning the



Mike Lithgow in the cockpit of a Vickers Supermarine Swift jet fighter

aircraft entirely by a method of trial and error on the drawing-boards and test-benches, or abandoning the project altogether. No test pilot would have agreed to that.

The temptation to save oneself is always a big one; when escape apparatus has been specifically designed and fitted to an aircraft for the express purpose of enabling a pilot to escape in an emergency, the temptation must be well-nigh irresistible. A pilot can quite reasonably argue with himself along these lines: A man's life is worth more than the most valuable aircraft. If he survives, he will be able to go on with his work of testing aircraft, whereas if he ignores the opportunity of escape he will be no more use to the designers and constructors. Therefore it is better to save oneself than to ignore the opportunity to escape. And so on.

But there is another side to this argument; and this is the side that comes first with the test pilot. If the machine which he is testing develops trouble and he abandons it, he will never know what caused the trouble. Therefore there will always be the risk that, though this particular trouble might not recur perhaps for a long while; nevertheless, when it did recur, there might be a full complement of crew and passengers on board, and all might lose their lives. And simply because he did not stay long enough with his plane when the trouble first occurred to diagnose its cause and thus enable its designers to eradicate it.

It was such a dilemma as this which faced another famous test pilot, Leslie Colquhoun. He was doing one of the later tests on a fighter plane known as an Attacker. At a point where he had just passed a speed of 400 miles an hour there was a sudden explosion outside the aircraft, and he saw to his horror that one wing had twisted at its point of junction with the fuselage and was now pointing upwards at an angle that would have been a designer's nightmare.

The plane staggered in the air with such violence that one did not need to be a test pilot to know that its chances of surviving another lurch—or even that one—were negligible. With one wing twisted and distorted like that, the whole plane must become a giant cork-screw and spiral its way downwards with ever-increasing speed till it hit the ground like a bomb and buried itself yards deep, and him with it.

Immediately above his head was the release mechanism of the ejector-seat, placed there for just such an emergency if it should ever arise. It needed but the slightest movement on his part, and his ejector-seat would shoot him bodily out of the doomed plane; in due course his parachute would unfold and he would then glide safely to earth, with more than a 90 per cent chance of survival.

### Horrible alternative

Alternatively, he might stay with his plane. There was little doubt in his mind that it was doomed. Even if he could by some miracle keep it in a controlled spiral, the moment would come when it had to be landed, and there would be no hope at all of a controlled landing.

When he hit the ground he would almost certainly be killed outright by the impact. The alternative could only be injury and concussion, with the prospect of being burnt alive if his fuel tanks exploded.

These thoughts almost certainly will have passed through Leslie Colquhoun's head in the split-second or two while his mind took in the situation. But if his natural instinct was to let his ejector-seat take charge of operations, something else, something stronger, prompted him to remain in charge himself. He would stay with his crippled plane, force it to do his bidding, and bring it somehow to earth.

Hardly had he come to this decision before he became aware

of a most extraordinary thing: instead of embarking upon a spiral flight downwards, which by all the laws of aeronautics it should have done, it was continuing, under the thrust of its power unit, to maintain height! Its course was a level one, even though it was lopsided, erratic, unpredictable in direction. The pilot then decided to switch off the power and attempt to bring his plane down in a free glide to earth.

But when his air speed was reduced to 200 miles an hour—less than half the speed at which the wing crumpled—he found that he was losing control of the plane. He had therefore to switch on again and attain a safe flying speed; and since this was well in

Continued on page 10

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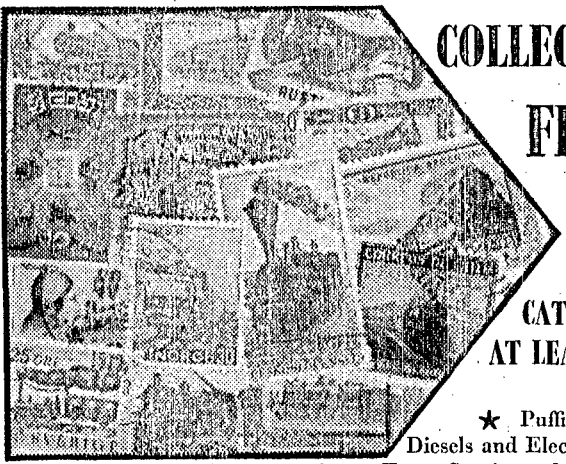
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# THE WORLD OF STAMPS

ARTISTS who design postage stamps sometimes have their work severely criticised. The Austrian 1958 Mothers' Day stamp, for instance, has displeased some people, who say that both mother and child are shown in curiously strained attitudes.

The artist would no doubt reply that he did not wish simply to reproduce a conventional picture, but that he has tried to depict a mother's tender love for her little daughter. Well, it is impossible to please everybody, but he has certainly produced an attractive design.



SOME countries hold competitions for the design of new stamps, offering prizes to the successful artists. The Sierra Leone Post Office recently offered £25 each for the designs of four special stamps to be issued next year to celebrate the Queen's visit, and to mark the centenary of the first stamps of Sierra Leone.

The subjects of the new stamps will include a view of the Royal Yacht Britannia, in which the Queen will travel, a scene at a diamond mine, and a design

representing the first settlement at Freetown, the capital of the colony.

When a new series of stamps is being prepared in West Germany, the Federal Post Office not only reveals the selected designs but also publishes photographs of designs submitted but not chosen.

One of four new West German charity stamps shows a dairy-maid at work, and collectors can compare its design with some of those which were rejected. One of the latter, in white outline on a black background in the style of a scraper-board drawing, shows a milk-maid pouring milk into a churn. It is always interesting to make comparisons, and to say, "Now—which design would I have chosen?"



THAT strange, flightless bird, the kiwi, is pictured on this New Zealand stamp which is to be

issued on January 5 next year to mark the Pan-Pacific Scout Jamboree. Eight thousand scouts are expected to camp at Auckland and letters posted on the opening day will receive a special Jamboree postmark.

It is more than sixty years since the kiwi was first depicted on New Zealand stamps and it has appeared on them at intervals ever since. The huia, a species of crow, the tui or honey-eater, and the notornis are among other unusual birds which have been portrayed on New Zealand issues.

The notornis, a brilliantly coloured member of the moorhen family, was once thought to be extinct, none having been seen since 1898. Ten years ago, however, three specimens were found by a New Zealand bird-watcher in South Island, and the shy notornis suddenly became world-famous. It appeared on a New Zealand stamp of 1956.

Mounted on an album page with a brief note describing each bird, such stamps make an attractive display, especially for the collector who is also interested in ornithology.



C. W. HILL

# LIVING DANGEROUSLY

(Continued from page 9)

excess of 200 miles an hour, he knew that that was the speed at which he would have to touch down. It is a considerable speed at which to land with a well-found plane; to do so with a buckled, lopsided plane was to invite disaster.

Nevertheless, this is what Leslie Colquhoun managed to do. He touched down, crammed on his brakes, damaged his tyres, and strained his wheels and landing-gear generally; but he brought the crippled machine, tip-tilted wing and all, to a standstill on the runway, and stepped out as though he was just back from a normal flight.

## Near miracle

Because he had not abandoned his plane he was able to report exactly what had happened and in what conditions of speed, climb, wind-direction, and so forth. Furthermore, here, miraculously, was the plane intact.

Experts went to work on it. The wing was examined inch by inch. Micro-examination of cross-sections of the metal of which the struts, rivets, and other vital parts had been constructed showed the true cause of the wing distortion. Once the cause was known, the remedy was not far to seek. Had the pilot not brought the plane back for examination the mystery might have remained unsolved for ever.

Another eminent test pilot was faced with the same desperate decision to make, and in conditions, if possible, worse even than those which Leslie Colquhoun

had to face. For this time there was fire in his plane. It was a plane in which experiments were being carried out to see what speeds were possible in vertical climb. Its main power unit was its jet, but it had also a rocket motor to increase its power of vertical climb.

The take-off was successful. But immediately the pilot switched on his rocket motor it exploded; and in exploding set fire to the whole tail unit of the plane. With his tail-plane on fire, the obvious thing to do was to bale out, for the prospect of survival was virtually nil. The pilot had only to cover his face and the ejector-seat would shoot him clear of the burning plane and he would glide safely to the ground. But for a test pilot the plane comes first, the

pilot second. The man decided that he must stay with his burning plane.

Miraculously, he managed to bring it back to the ground, landed it, and stepped clear. A crew of fire-fighters with foam equipment were in readiness, as always when there is any risk of a crash, and their prompt action enabled the plane to be saved, its tail still more or less intact, the rocket motor still capable of detailed examination.

One more vital problem was posed and solved, thanks to the gallant test pilot.

(Next week Garry Hogg describes something of the painstaking routine work that a test pilot must carry out in the development of a new plane.)

# JUST A FEW WORDS

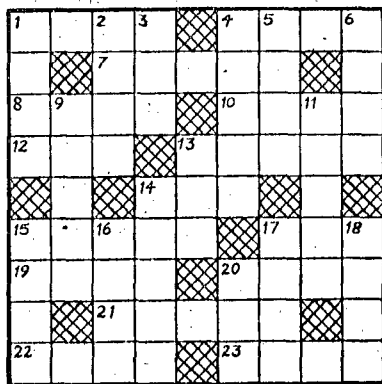
HERE is an entertaining way to increase your knowledge of words. Each numbered sentence below is followed by three answers or comments you might make; but, in each case, only one is correct and shows that you have understood the meaning of the word in *italics*. To answer five correctly is very good.

Answers are given on page 11

- Many regarded the actor with *adulation*.  
A—Superior scorn.  
B—Dreary boredom.  
C—Fawning flattery.
- His mind was full of *conjecture*.  
A—Sly trickery.  
B—Hopeless bitterness.  
C—Incomplete guess-work.
- Her dress was *flamboyant*.  
A—Brightly coloured.  
B—Liable to catch fire.  
C—Floating in the breeze.
- The messenger rode a *décrepit* horse.  
A—Old and worn out.  
B—Nicely behaved.  
C—Gaily decked out.
- She wept *copious* tears.  
A—Kept well under control.  
B—An overwhelming flood.  
C—Without genuine feeling.
- A *surfeit* will do you no good.  
A—Too much to digest.  
B—A wild guess.  
C—Success without effort.



# PUZZLE PARADE



## Crossword puzzle

**READING ACROSS.** 1 Larva of a beetle. 4 Comfort. 7 Kingdom. 8 Leaf of a book. 10 Stag or roebuck. 12 Before. 13 Repairs. 14 Mongrel. 15 Ciphered. 17 Fasten with needle and thread. 19 Indebted. 20 Unmannerly. 21 Tree. 22 Beasts of burden. 23 Sound of the bell.

**READING DOWN.** 1 Stare. 2 Egg on. 3 Busy insect. 4 Tree. 5 Uttered at the end of a prayer. 6 Makes a mistake. 9 Longfellow shot one into the air. 11 Rimmed. 13 Soft, moist earth. 14 Yields. 15 Duplicate. 16 "The boy stood on the burning —." 17 Certain. 18 In good health. 20 Knock.

Answer next week

## HIDDEN TEST MEN

The names of two England cricketers now touring Australia are hidden in the paragraph below.

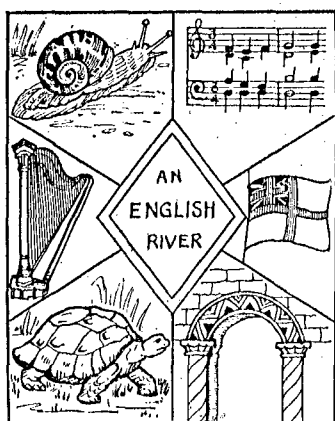
THE mayor was a keen cricketer and still a good bowler, despite advancing years. When the wicket was wet, many batsmen found him almost unplayable.

## TANGLED TRIOS

The missing words consist of the same three letters differently arranged.

"PERTAINING to a plant or tree," read out Pat, who was doing a crossword puzzle. "Well, it's — obviously," said Sue. "What about — for 2 down?" Pat queried. "That is an Egyptian adder," chuckled Bob. "What you mean is —, which is a mineral-water spring."

## FIND THIS RIVER



WHEN you have found the words suggested by these illustrations, rearrange them so that the initial letters spell the name of England's longest river.

## THEY ALL WENT TO SLEEP

Who slept in the little bear's bed?

Who slept under the haystack?

Who slept for 100 years?

Who slept after eating a piece of poisoned apple?

Who slept in a kennel?

## FAME IN FIGURES

102	27324
239	32809
207	10506

Complete the little addition sums above. When you have done so, change the figures in the answers into letters according to the following code:

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9  
A B D E I J K L M R

If you have done the sums correctly the figures will provide the letters in the name of a Test cricketer, now in Australia.

## FAMOUS INVENTORS

Can you correctly pair off these famous inventions with the jumbled names of the people who were responsible for them?

YDVA—Jet engine.

DRBIA—"The Rocket" steam engine.

PHENSTSNOE—Television.

THEWLIT—Miners' safety lamp.

## SPORTS PUZZLE

The letters of the words printed in italics can be rearranged to spell a term used in Angling.

"We are going to fish by the old mill; coming?" called Don to Tim. "Do you mean that old ruin where we saw the bat?" Tim asked. "Yes; it's a smashing place for fish," answered Don. "I'll bring Zip, my dog," Tim said. "You jolly well won't," laughed Don. "You must be quiet if you want to catch fish."

## KNOW YOUR TABLES

Fill each blank space with a unit of weight or distance to get the names of four places in England.

W.....ester. Pres.....  
Folke..... .....ley.

## JUST A FEW WORDS

1. C. Adulation is excessive praise; fawning flattery. (From Latin *adulatus*, fawning like a dog.)
2. C. Conjecture is guess-work based on incomplete evidence. (From Latin *conjectura*, conclusion drawn from omens.)
3. A. Flamboyant is over-decorative; highly coloured; too conspicuous. (From French *flamboyant*, flamelike.)
4. A. Decrepit means worn out; tottery; enfeebled by age or illness. (From Latin *decrepitas*, noiseless, worn out.)
5. B. Copious means plentiful. (From Latin *copia*, plenty.)
6. A. A surfeit (pronounced *serfit*) is an excess; especially of food or drink. (From Old French *sorfeit*, exceeded.)

## ANSWERS TO PUZZLES

Hidden Test Men. May; Sweetman.  
Tangled trios. Sap, asp, spa.  
Find this river. Snail; Music; Harp; Ensign; Tortoise; Arch—THAMES.  
They all went to sleep. Goldilocks; Little Boy Blue; Sleeping Beauty; Snow White; Mr. Darling (in Peter Pan).  
Fame in Figures. Jim Laker.  
Famous inventors. Davy—miner's lamp; Baird—television; Stephenson—The Rocket steam engine; Sir Frank Whittle—jet engine.  
Sports puzzle. Ground bait.  
Know your tables. W-inch-ester; Pres-ton; Folke-stone; Yard-ley.

## LUCKY DIP

### COUNTRY MOUSE

A COUNTRY MOUSE once came to town,  
To see his cousin there.  
The noises nearly deafened him,  
The traffic made him stare.

His cousin had a mouse-hole  
Beneath the kitchen floor.  
But a tabby cat lived up above,  
With sharpened tooth and claw.

So he packed his bag, and off he went  
To tell his farm relations  
To stay at home, and pay no heed  
To Town Mouse invitations!

## OTHER WORLDS

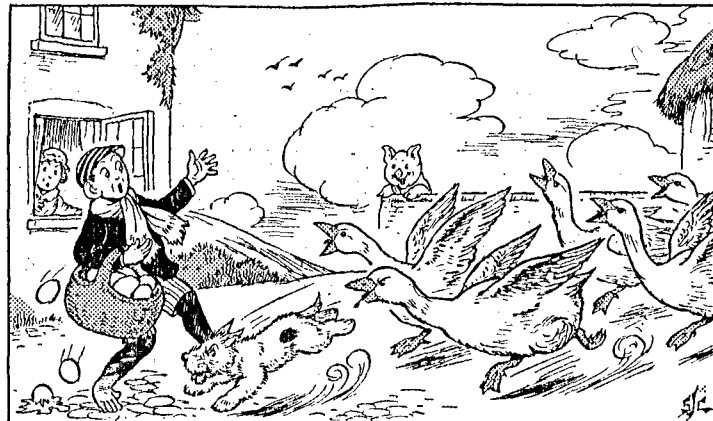
IN the evening Mars is in the south and Venus is low in the south-west. In the morning Jupiter is low in the south-east. Our picture shows the Moon as it will appear at 7.45 on the morning of Saturday, December 6.



## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Isn't it incredible  
That mushrooms should be edible;  
Since they'll grow in a night  
Without any light?

## BOUNCER NOW KNOWS BETTER



Jacko was sent to the farm to get the usual weekly supply of eggs—and of course Bouncer went, too. While waiting for the eggs they were the centre of interest to the geese. Bouncer did not like to be stared at, and he decided to drive them off. He rushed forward, expecting the geese to scatter before him; but to his great surprise they stayed still. Faced by a hissing horde, Bouncer skidded to a halt; and when they raised their wings and advanced Bouncer ran off as quickly as his four legs could take him.

## WIN SOME EXTRA POCKET MONEY!

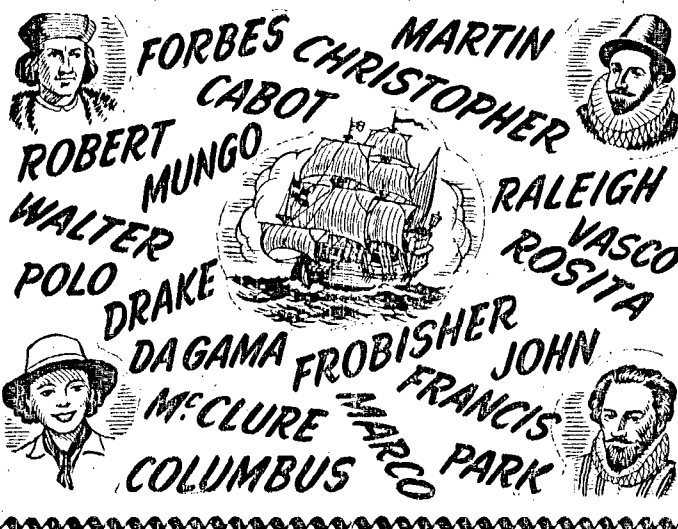
WHAT do you know about the world's great explorers? Here is a chance to test your knowledge and at the same time win some extra pocket money. Prizes of Ten Shillings each will go to the ten winners of this week's CN Competition, and 5s. Postal Orders to ten more for the next-best efforts. As usual, the competition is open to all boys and girls under 17 living in Great Britain, Ireland, and the Channel Islands—free!

WHAT TO DO: In the picture below the Christian names and surnames of ten famous travellers and explorers have been jumbled up. Can you pair them up correctly? For example, CHRISTOPHER and COLUMBUS make one answer.

Find the others and write all ten answers in a neat list on a postcard. Add your full name, age, and address, then ask a parent or guardian to sign the entry as your own unaided work, and post to:

CN Competition No. 14,  
3 Pilgrim Street, London, E.C.4 (Comp.),

to arrive by Tuesday, December 16, the closing date.  
The prizes will be awarded for entries which are correct and the best written (or printed) according to age. Editor's decision final.





## TWO NAMES TO NOTE

Two South London schoolgirls, 17-year-old Anne Smith and 16-year-old Pat Brown, are causing quite a stir in ladies' road racing circles this season.

Together with the more experienced Dorothy Bates, a former junior cross-country champion, they formed the Mitcham A.C. team which recently won the Surrey Road Relay title.

The two girls have been members of the Mitcham club for 18 months, but they have been training together, under "Dink" Pawsey, the club's distance champion, for only six months. The County title was won on their second outing together as a team.

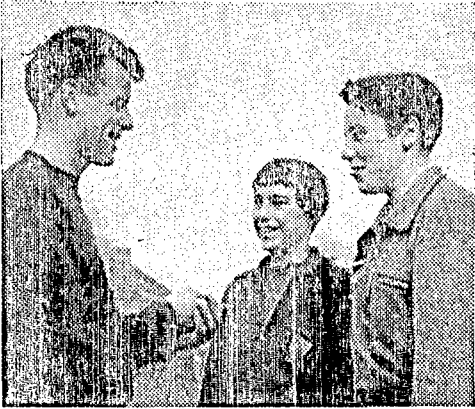
Pat's time for the two-mile lap was 11 minutes 17 seconds, second fastest of the race; and Anne's 11 minutes 21 seconds was the third fastest.

Pat, who is the Surrey intermediate 880 yard record holder, is also the Inter-County intermediate champion.

Both girls spend a lot of their leisure time training. Even during the winter they put in two evenings a week at the floodlit Tooting track, and Sunday morning as

well—amazing everyone with the amount of work they do.

We shall obviously be hearing a lot more of these girls.



Pat Brown (left) and Anne Smith receive a word of instruction from their coach "Dink" Pawsey

## Sailing canoes need quick movers

Those who handle 10-square-metre sailing canoes have to be quick movers as well as good sailors. For the helmsman's seat slides far out over the side so that his weight can balance the craft as she heels over to the wind. When the narrow 17-foot-long canoe goes about on the opposite tack the helmsman, in nipping smartly over to the other side, has a trickier job than he would have in a roomier craft.

British helmsmen are now pre-

paring for the trials next year in connection with the challenge for the New York Canoe Club International Cup. A number of new canoes are being specially designed for the event.

At present held by America, the cup was first competed for in 1885. Until 1932 it was held by America, but remained in England for the next 19 years. America won back the cup again in 1952, and retained it in 1955. The event has not been held since.

The annual rugby match between the two Varsityes began in 1871-72, two years before the first soccer fixture, and Oxford now hold a lead of 35 victories against 29 by Cambridge, with 12 drawn games. Last season's match ended in a narrow win to Oxford.

The footballers of Oxford and Cambridge Universities have completed their preparations for the annual soccer and rugby matches. On Saturday the soccer teams meet at Wembley, and next Tuesday the rugby XV's will play at Twickenham.

This is a Jubilee year in the soccer battle of the Blues, for Saturday's game will be the 75th between them. Of the previous matches, Cambridge have won 30 to Oxford's 29, with 15 drawn.

## Eyes on the Master

ONLY 750 spectators watched West Ham United play a match the other day. But though the smallest, the crowd was probably the most enthusiastic that has watched them play this season. And everyone was hoping that the Hammers would lose.

For the spectators were the 750 boys of the Leyton County High School who had been given the morning off to watch the school soccer team entertain the famous First Division Club.

Playing for West Ham was the boys' own science and games master, Philip Woosnam, B.Sc. He was recently transferred from Leyton Orient F.C., and the game was arranged as a sort of "consolation prize" to the boys for losing the star of their local team. The game ended in a 6-1 win for the Hammers.

## SPORTS QUIZ

1. What is the Canada Cup?
2. Can you name the man and the girl who are Britain's top-ranking tennis players?
3. In which country will the 1962 World Soccer Cup be held?
4. What are the Highland Games?
5. Roy Swetman is the M.C.C.'s deputy wicket-keeper in Australia. For which county does he play?
6. Of what material is an ice-hockey puck made?

1. Trophy competed for by two-man teams.  
2. Michael Davies and Christine Truman in an annual international golf match.  
3. Chile. 4. An athletics meeting held in the Scottish Highlands. 5. Surrey. 6. Vulcanised rubber.

## SPORTING GALLERY

### BRIAN STATHAM

The first time Brian went to Australia was in 1951, when injuries had hit the England team and replacements were called for. Statham flew out with Roy Tattersall, but was not required for Test duty.



His second visit was in 1954-5 when he shared the England bowling honours with "Typhoon" Tyson, who is with him again in the present tour.

At 28 Brian Statham is a cricketer of wide experience and one of the finest fast bowlers in the world. Yet he had never considered the game seriously until he was 19 and although born in Manchester, paid his first visit to Old Trafford in 1949, as a spectator. A year later he was playing for Lancashire, having been recommended to the club while serving in the Royal Air Force.

## Records galore

A "SMASHING" time was had by some of our swimmers the other evening at Wallasey, Cheshire, for no fewer than 25 records were broken.

Sixteen of them fell to Chris Walkden and Chris Wilkinson. Walkden set up both British and English senior records for the 100, 110, 200, and 220 yards breast-stroke events; and Wilkinson did the same in the junior section.

Graham Symonds followed with new butterfly records for the 200 and 220 yards, his time for the latter being inside the world record. This cannot be recognised, however, as the bath at Wallasey is only 25 yards long, instead of the necessary 55.

The girls were not to be left out, and Jean Oldroyd finished with five new records in the 100 and 110 yards butterfly events.

## Fair play

We reprint this little item from the F.A. News.

A DISPATCH from Teheran states that the fairest footballers in the World are to be found at Al Harvas on the Persian Gulf. There the referees sport a rubber truncheon and have the right to punish a foul at once with this weapon. We are told that no fouls at all are registered!

## Two games for Ian

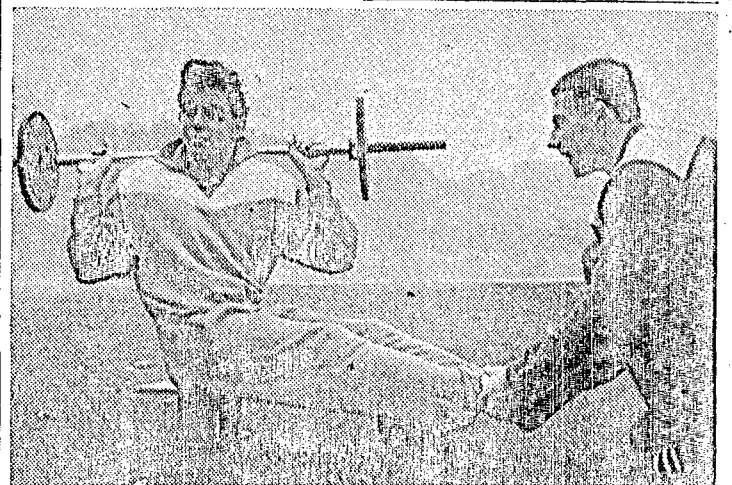
AMID the controversy about soccer or rugby in the schools, 14-year-old Ian Docherty, of Corby Grammar School, is getting the best of both worlds. Corby Grammar is a rugby-only school, and Ian plays in the school XV as a hooker.

Ian, however, is also a very promising soccer player, and has this season represented the Kettering and District Schools XI, at outside-left. He keeps in soccer practice by playing for Corby Athletic in a youth league.

This means that he often plays two matches on a Saturday—soccer in the morning and rugby for his school in the afternoon. But Ian seems to be making quite a success of his dual football rôle.

## Keeping fit is a champion job

Two promising young runners in training at the Deptford Park Track, London. They are Jimmy Avis, holding the weight, who is London Junior 440 yards champion, and Ken Smith, Junior mile champion.

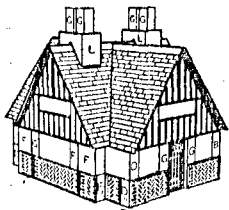


## LOTT'S

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